

Appl. No. : 10/624, 728
Filed : July 21, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-12 and 18-25 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for entering the Amendment After Final And Request For Reconsideration ("Amendment After Final") filed on February 7, 2006, and for the withdrawal of drawing objections and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as indicated in the Advisory Action.

The Advisory Action indicates that the Examiner has maintained the art-based rejections. Applicant submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. Each of the Examiner's reasons for rejection was addressed in the Amendment After Final. Should the Examiner persist in the art-based rejections, Applicant kindly requests that the Examiner provide a detailed response to Applicant's written arguments addressing such rejections.

Amendments to the claims

Claim 1 has been amended merely to clarify the claimed subject matter. Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, "a photoresist ashing system comprising two processing chambers configured for alternate operation, no more than a single pump in fluid communication with the two chambers..." This amendment is fully supported by the originally filed application at, for example, paragraph 19 and Figure 2, which shows a single pump 64 in fluid communication with chambers 1 and 2.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. If there is any further hindrance to allowance of the pending claims, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 4/7/06

By: Sanjivpal S. Gill
Sanjivpal S. Gill
Registration No. 42,578
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(415) 954-4114

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